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Eldercare Trust Fund Check Off on State Income Taxes

Small Contributions Can Make a Big Difference for Seniors in Need

(Columbia, S.C.) With the filing deadline for state and federal taxes fast approaching, the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging would like to remind citizens who have not yet filed a state tax return that a small donation to the ElderCare Trust Fund check-off can pay big dividends in the life of an older person in South Carolina.

Some of the community projects that have been funded by the ElderCare Trust Fund include the "Mr. Fix-it" project, which uses church and community volunteers to provide home repairs in 7 upstate counties; the "Friendly Visitor" project in Greenville, which involved young people visiting and running errands for individuals in nursing homes; and the "One Step Rural Initiative" in Williamsburg County that provided home modifications and repairs to plumbing and heating systems for elderly citizens. These are just a few examples. Grants totaling more than \$300,000 that support community-based projects across the state have been awarded since the fund's inception.

Created by the State Legislature in 1992, the fund relies primarily on voluntary contributions by check-off on state income tax returns. Donations can also be made directly to the fund by contacting the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging. Donations are used to award grants to public and private nonprofit organizations to establish innovative programs and services for older adults so that they may remain in their homes with maximum independence and dignity, avoiding institutional care for as long as possible. The check-off for the ElderCare Trust fund is found on line 26 of the SC 1040 tax form, or on line 13 of the SC 1040A short form.

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